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# **OUR STATE, OUR FUTURE**

*The Report of the North Carolina  
Government Performance Audit Committee*

LEGISLATIVE

*Raleigh, North Carolina  
February 1993*

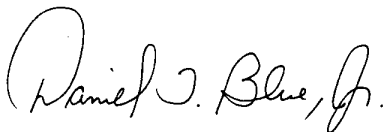
## TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA:

North Carolina has taken a leadership role in public governance once again, by creating the Government Performance Audit Committee, the nation's first legislatively-driven efficiency study of State government. While every state is facing fiscal challenges that demand new ways of doing business, we are the only one with a comprehensive plan to show us how to make the change.

As co-chairs of the Government Performance Audit Committee, we are proud to present this report, which represents the best efforts of the Committee's 27 public and private members. *Our State, Our Future* is a summary of a year of scrutiny, analysis, discussion, debate and hard work. The report is designed to make the Committee's findings and recommendations accessible to all "owners" of North Carolina's State government—that is, all citizens and taxpayers. It is supported by additional documents on record in the State Library and Legislative Library: *Pathways: Summary of Findings and Recommendations of the North Carolina Government Performance Audit Committee*; *Issue Papers of the Government Performance Audit Committee*; and four performance audits of State management systems.

Our success in this massive undertaking is the result of many dedicated individuals across the State. We thank the members of the Committee, particularly the private members, who devoted their time, effort and insight as volunteers. A special thanks goes to former Senator Henson P. Barnes, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, for his leadership as co-chair of the Committee. We deeply appreciate the commitment and cooperation of the State's employees, who displayed again and again their enthusiasm for improving State government. Finally, we could not have made the progress we have over the last year without the support of our legislative and Committee staff.

No member of the Government Performance Audit Committee agrees with all of our 350 recommendations. But—make no mistake—we are each committed to the need for substantial change in the way State government operates. We commend this report to you and ask that you join us in implementing real change for North Carolina. We want—and need—your help.



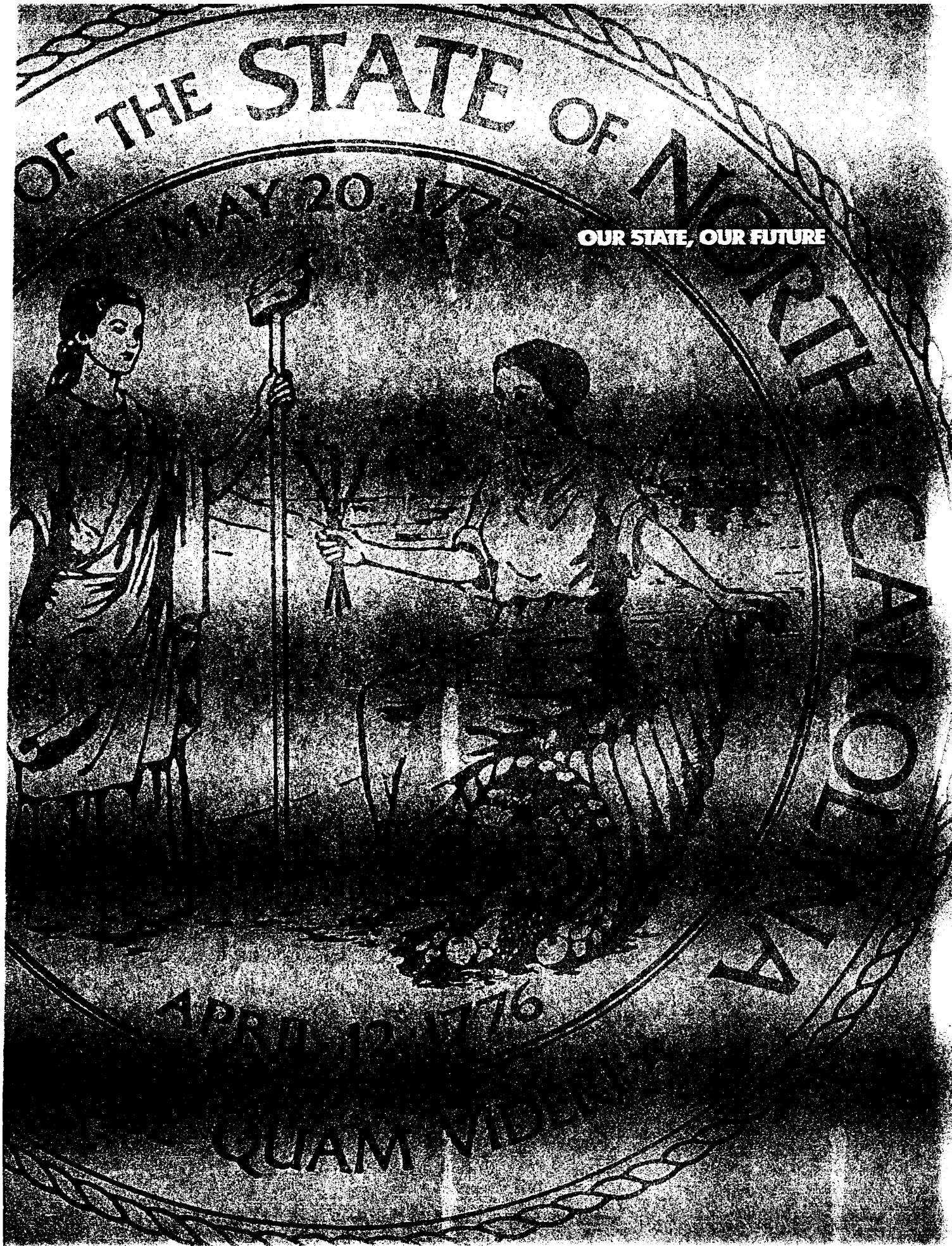
Representative Daniel T. Blue, Jr.  
Co-chair  
Speaker of the North Carolina  
House of Representatives



Senator Marc Basnight  
Co-chair  
President Pro Tempore of  
the North Carolina Senate

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**OUR STATE, OUR FUTURE**

## OUR STATE, OUR FUTURE

North Carolina has a choice. We can continue to run the State's business as usual and watch as our children fail to measure up to world standards...our people lack the skills to get and keep jobs...our facilities crumble...our prisons overflow...and businesses choose other, more attractive areas to locate.

Or we can change the way government works, make tough decisions and prepare for the inevitable challenges ahead. Only if the State is willing to take this risk can we:

- Educate our children to compete in a global marketplace
- Train our workforce in the skills needed for the new information age
- Create new job opportunities from the mountains to the coast
- Provide vital services to the people who need them
- Ensure the quality of life North Carolinians cherish

How do we chart this course for the State's future? The North Carolina General Assembly had the foresight to begin the planning process in 1991, when it established the North Carolina Government Performance Audit Committee with a mandate to examine the "efficiency and effectiveness of major management policies, practices and functions across all executive branch agencies."

This report represents the culmination of a year of intense effort by our Committee to evaluate and recommend improvements in government operations, organization, staffing and management practices; to develop strategies to preserve and enhance the quality of state services; and to establish priorities for future state spending.

Our report shows that it won't be easy building the future we want for our State. But North Carolina has a long history of turning challenges into opportunities, and we can do it again if we work together, starting today.

The choice is up to us.

*"We know that we cannot afford to do things in State government the way we're doing them today."*

Helen Powers  
Asheville